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ABSTRACT

A survey of the history of linguistic theory concerning grammar in the United States traces the development of theory since 1910. It begins with a general historical review of American linguistics. The subsequent three chapters focus on grammar. The first of these deals with morphology, beginning with Leonard Bloomfield's ideas in both his early and his more mature work. This discussion includes his general view of syntax. In addition, this chapter looks at the post-Bloomfieldian concept of the morpheme, morphology in early generative grammar, and accounts based on the morpheme since the early 1970s. The next chapter explores the history of distributionalism, and especially its influence on views of syntax, chronicling it from its origins through generative grammar, phrase structure grammar, and the transformational model. The final chapter looks at the general ideas of Noam Chomsky, tracing the way they have evolved over almost 40 years of research. Four periods of the linguist's career are examined. References made are generally to primary sources. An extensive list of references is appended, and text contents are indexed. (MSE)

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